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W. W. BOOTH, EDITOR AND MANAGER

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A FEDERAL BASEBALL LAW.

A member of congress has announced his intention of introducing in the house of representatives as early as possible in the next session a bill to make the bribery of baseball players a crime against the United States and to provide for the punishment of the briber and the guilty player.

This proposed legislation is in harmony with the general tendency of the times favoring the extension of the jurisdiction of the federal government to everything under the sun. It is worth while, however, for those who contemplate preserving the purity of baseball by federal laws to make haste slowly and to inquire whether any action on the part of the federal government in reference to this subject is appropriate or would be likely to promote the attainment of the ends desired.

It is only under the interstate commerce clause of the constitution that congress can conceivably have any power to legislate with reference to baseball generally. It must be on the theory that a baseball team going into different states to play a series of league games is in the eye of the law an organization engaged in or carrying on interstate commerce. We imagine this view would amuse the framers of the constitution.

The truth is that baseball will perish from off the face of the earth as a great national game if we are forced to rely upon acts of congress or state legislation to purify it and keep it pure. That will have to be done, if it is done at all, by the players themselves and the organizations which bring and keep them together and provide the great arenas that are necessary for the maintenance of the game in its highest estate.

The people will not continue to attend baseball games if they have any doubt as to the honesty of the players. The vast sums of money which they now contribute to the maintenance of baseball will fade away into nothing unless the owners of the clubs, with the cooperation of the players, take steps which they alone can take to keep the conduct of the players above all suspicion of dishonesty.

In the end a lot of too many good people the sovereign remedy for every political or social evil seems to be to pass a law. What the community really needs in regard to baseball and anything else that happens to be temporarily under suspicion is not a new law but old-fashioned honesty.

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF.

Political history of the recent past has begun to repeat itself. On October 24, 1918, President Wilson, seeing the growing indications of Democratic defeat in the congressional elections, published a letter in which he made an appeal for the endorsement of himself and his administration in the form of a return of a Democratic majority to congress. The letter was addressed to "My fellow countrymen," and said in part: "If you have approved of my leadership and wish me to continue to be your unembarrassed spokesman in affairs at home and abroad, I earnestly beg that you will express yourself unmistakably to that effect by returning a Democratic majority to both the senate and the house of representatives. I am your servant and will accept your verdict without cavil."

The response of the people of this nation was unmistakable. They elected in both houses of congress a Republican majority and showed by so doing that they disapproved of his leadership, did not want him to be their spokesman and did not wish to sustain him. Then Mr. Wilson went ahead and broke his written promise to accept their verdict without cavil. He ignored their judgment and a few months later went to Europe, where he posed as the commissioned representative of the United States to insist upon the inclusion in the treaty of his pet scheme of a league of nations. He pretended not only to be the spokesman of the United States, but he professed to bear a mandate from them to do what he proceeded to do. He set himself against the verdict of the nation whose servant he had declared himself to be. And now, when there are steadily growing indications that the verdict of the people will be repeated at the coming elections, another appeal comes from the White House bearing the name of Woodrow Wilson and addressed to "My fellow countrymen"—an appeal for endorsement of what he did after the American people had repudiated his leadership, his administration, and his record at the polls. The answer this year will be in more forceful terms than before, for the most pernicious thing of his whole administration, the league of nations, has been proposed since the elections of 1918, and the people have even more cause than before to repudiate Mr. Wilson, and with him his avowed follower, Mr. Cox.

DO NEW FREIGHT RATES AFFECT BUSINESS?

The advances in freight rates effective the latter part of August had no perceptible effect upon general business activity or on the amount of freight shipped, according to statistics published in The Railway Age. "Not a few persons contended," says that paper, "that such large advances in rates would impose a burden upon commerce that would reduce the freight moved." In the week just before the rates went into effect the number of carloads shipped reached the maximum point for the year and in the week ending September 18, one month after the rates were put into effect, the number of carloads exceeded that of any other week except the one just mentioned. "An interesting question," the article continues, "is as to whether the movement of freight thus far indicates any recession in general business activity? It is well known that there has been a decline of activity in some industries and there is much talk that a slump in production and commerce generally has been occurring. The statistics regarding car loading, however, show that in the last four weeks for which we have records the freight movement continued to be practically as heavy as it ever was at that time of year. The year 1918 was one of tremendous industrial activity owing to the war; and in the late summer and fall of 1919 there was a great revival of business activity and the freight traffic became as large as it ever was at that time of year. How does the

amount of freight which has recently been moved compare with the amount moved during the corresponding years in 1918 and 1919?" The number of cars moved in 1920 was 9244 less than in 1919 and 13,455 less than in 1918. These figures, showing so small a difference, would indicate that the productive and commercial activity of the country on the whole was as great as in either of the two preceding years, although there was undoubtedly less business and reduced prosperity in particular industries and in particular territories. One month is too short a time to adequately test the new rates as to their effect upon business in general, and judgment as to their practicability must be reserved until a later time.

JEWISH SAILORS HOST TO EXILES

(Correspondence of Associated Press)
HONOLULU, T. H., Sept. 23.—Sixty Galician Jews, for years exiled prisoners of war in Russia, here en route home aboard the United States transport Heffron, together with 1500 Czech-Slovaks and about 90 Hungarian prisoners of war, celebrated Yom Kippur, or the Feast of Atonement, in the Honolulu army and navy Y. M. C. A. with Jewish sailors from the United States navy as their hosts and sponsors.

Robert Goldenberg and William Cohen, naval reservists from Los Angeles, here on a practice cruise with the battleship squadron of the Pacific fleet, and Jacob Sitron, regular navyman, undertook the entertainment of the exiles.

The three sailors raised a fund among themselves for the feast, which was to end the Atonement fast. They tried to spend it at the Honolulu stores, but when the grocer refused their mission they were fitted with good things and no payment taken. Then they visited Major Capite, commander of the Czechs aboard the Heffron, in charge of the Galician prisoners and gave him their word every one of the Galician Jews would be returned aboard if permitted to come ashore for the feast.

JAPAN TO TRADE WITH VENEZUELA

(Correspondence of Associated Press)
TOKYO, Sept. 18. Diplomatic relations between the republic of Venezuela and the empire of Japan may be established in the very near future, if the mission of H. Perez Dupuy, envoy extraordinary from Venezuela to Tokyo, is successful. Mr. Dupuy has, for several days past, been negotiating with the Japanese foreign office to that end and looks sure of the ultimate success of his mission.

The newly subsidized steamship lines which Japan is today promoting to improve and encourage Japanese shipping probably will call at La Guayra, the principal seaport of Venezuela.

ELKO COUNTY NOT TO FINANCE HANGARS

Elko county will not advance the money requested by the postal authorities to build hangars for the

SWARM OF WOMEN PUZZLES EUROPE

(Correspondence of Associated Press)
VIENNA, Sept. 20.—The swarm of mysterious women who have made their appearance in the capitals of central and eastern Europe have begun to attract the speculative attention of the Vienna newspapers.

Perfectly dressed and nearly always of more than ordinary pulchritude, they seem to travel unhindered over frontiers where the average traveler is treated as a suspect. The newspaper belief is that they are principally engaged in the smuggling of valuables and securities and foreign monies under high protection, if they are not espionage agents or possibly combining the two.

HOLLAND EASES TRAVEL RULES

(Correspondence of Associated Press)
THE HAGUE, Holland, Sept. 23.—Holland has lifted a number of travel restrictions upon foreign visitors who have heretofore been subjected to considerable difficulties and annoyances. The new regulations do away with the former compulsory police registration in respect of American, British, French, Italian and other tourists from western Europe, but it is still imposed upon Germans, Russians and others from eastern countries, owing to the fear of bolshevik infection.

As a result of the former stringent rules, Holland has had very little tourist traffic this summer.

SWIMMERS BREAK EATING RECORDS

(Correspondence of Associated Press)
PARIS, Sept. 25.—"Duke" Kahan, Honolulu, Keoloha and Norman Ross, Hawaiian and American swimmers, not only smashed French swimming records during their recent visit to Paris, but established marks in another branch of sport that will stand for all time, according to the manager of the hotel at which they stopped. He is willing to hand them the eating championship of the world.

government planes, and, according to a telegram from Attorney General Fowler, it would be illegal to do so, as the laws of the state expressly provide that the board of county commissioners must not use the public funds for purposes of this nature, says the Elko Free Press.

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J. G. THOMPSON

I. G. THOMPSON
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
202-3 State Bank Building
TONOPAH NEVADA

W. R. GIBSON

LAWYER
Room 414 State Bank Building
Phone—Office 622, Residence 623

HUGH HENRY BROWN

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